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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/893,522

06/29/2001

George Hoshi

010846

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EXAMINER

FOX, JOHN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3753

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/893,522	Applicant(s) HOSHI ET AL.	
	Examiner JOHN FOX	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 35-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 35-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

In response to the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences of July 12, 2011 PROSECUTION IS REOPENED. The following Office Action includes only rejections not previously adjudicated by the Board. Authorization to reopen prosecution has been given by the Group Director, who has signed below.

/DONALD T HAJEC/

Director, Technology Center 3700

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1 and 35/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson (US 6,076,543).

Johnson shows a gas line slidably mounted on a rail 42, see Figure 2, a plurality of gas lines mounted in parallel in a vented enclosure, see Figure 10, and discloses at column 12, lines 18-29, that if the enclosure of Figure 10 is not required then the plurality of gas sticks can be “adjustably mounted on a pair of rails or supports that are coupled between adjacent stanchions 116. Each rail extends transverse to the long axis of device’s track and includes a mount or bolt which extends therefrom for insertion through a respective one of the track 42’s slots 71.”

Johnson teaches headed bolts 76 for use with the rails, or tracks, 42, see Figures 6-7. The heads 78 of the bolts are captured in the interior region 72 of the channels 68

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by the flanges 74 and the heads 78 can slide in the channels 68 to position the bolts at a desired location for securing the fluid handling components mounted on the rails 42.

Johnson teaches that "Gas handling units 44-48 are slidably and adjustably mounted on track 42", see column 5, lines 37-38 (emphasis added). Gas handling units 44-48 make up a gas line, as recited in the claims. Such gas lines are commonly referred to as gas sticks.

However, Johnson does not disclose that the gas lines are slidably mounted on the transverse rails, only that they are adjustably mounted on the transverse rails. Johnson teaches rails 42 for adjustably mounting components. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such rails 42 for the disclosed transverse rails in view of the readily apparent utility of the rails 42 for adjustably mounting the gas lines. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used the headed fasteners 76 with the rails to so attach the gas line rails to the transverse rails. The use of such rails 42 would satisfy the disclosed function of Johnson of adjustably mounting the gas lines on the transverse rails and would inherently and explicitly provide for slidable adjustability. It is believed that a routineer in the art would readily recognize that the threaded portion 80 of the fasteners 76 would be disposed in the slots 71 for attaching the gas stick rails to the transverse rails.

Claims 1 and 35/1, in the alternative, and claims 2-4, 35/2-4, 37-42, and 44-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson as modified above in view of Itoh et al. Johnson, as modified, shows the claimed device except

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uses tubing connected fluid handling devices. Itoh et al show an improvement over tubing connected fluid handling devices with coupling blocks 21 for mounting the fluid handling devices. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have configured the Johnson gas line from such modular components as taught by Itoh et al to reduce costs, for example, and increase productivity. The provision of a spare rail for future use is considered to be an obvious expedient, in view of the spare line provided in Figure 10 of Johnson, note spare connection 110. Assembling a system as recited in the claims is seen to be an obvious step.

Claims 36 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Itoh et al as applied above and further in view of Markulec et al.

Johnson, as modified, shows the claimed device except for the shape of the tracks. Markulec et al show a gas stick system with a downward tapered groove and nut, see Figure 6a. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used such a downward tapered groove and nut in the system of Johnson, as modified, in view of the readily apparent equivalence between the two tracks and under the rationale set forth in *KSR v. Teleflex*, U.S._____, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 82 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1835 (2007) that the simple substitution of one known element for another to obtain predictable results is an indication of obviousness. In this case the predictable result is a rail for mounting a gas stick.

Claims 1 and 35/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Vu et al (US 6,394,138), of record.

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Johnson shows a gas line slidably mounted on a rail 42, see Figure 2, a plurality of gas lines mounted in parallel in a vented enclosure, see Figure 10, and discloses at column 12, lines 18-29, that if the enclosure of Figure 10 is not required then the plurality of gas sticks can be “adjustably mounted on a pair of rails or supports that are coupled between adjacent stanchions 116. Each rail extends transverse to the long axis of device’s track and includes a mount or bolt which extends therefrom for insertion through a respective one of the track 42’s slots 71.”

However, Johnson does not disclose that the gas lines are slidably mounted on the transverse rails. Vu et al show a gas stick system where gas sticks are mounted on transverse rails 234 by nuts 242 slidable in the rails and secured by bolts 240, see Figure 12. It is inherent to such rails that the mounted components can be slidably adjusted prior to the bolts 242 being fully tightened. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one of ordinary skill in the art to have used such rails as taught by Vu et al with the system of Johnson to provide support for the gas sticks thereof.

Claims 1 and 35/1, in the alternative, and claims 2-4, 35/2-4, 37-42, and 44-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Vu et al as applied above and further in view of Itoh et al. Johnson, as modified, shows the claimed device except uses tubing connected fluid handling devices. Itoh et al show an improvement over tubing connected fluid handling devices with coupling blocks 21 for mounting the fluid handling devices. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have configured the Johnson gas line

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from such modular components as taught by Itoh et al to reduce costs, for example, and increase productivity. The provision of a spare rail for future use is considered to be an obvious expedient, in view of the spare line provided in Figure 10 of Johnson, note spare connection 110. Assembling a system as recited in the claims is seen to be an obvious step.

Claims 36 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Vu et al and Itoh et al as applied above and further in view of Markulec et al.

Johnson, as modified, shows the claimed device except for the shape of the tracks. Markulec et al show a gas stick system with a downward tapered groove and nut, see Figure 6a. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used such a downward tapered groove and nut in the system of Johnson, as modified, in view of the readily apparent equivalence between the two tracks and under the rationale set forth in *KSR v. Teleflex*, U.S.____, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 82 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1835 (2007) that the simple substitution of one known element for another to obtain predictable results is an indication of obviousness. In this case the predictable result is a rail for mounting a gas stick.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN FOX whose telephone number is (571)272-4912. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Saturday from 10am-6pm (Hoteling Program).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hepperle can be reached on 571-272-4913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John Fox/
Primary Examiner
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